

### Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the last paragraph on page 3 continuing onto page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Hardwired networks typically provide significant bandwidth and are better equipped to satisfy significant communication requirements associated with advanced and complicated end use applications. However, hardwire communication networks involve the installation of significant infrastructure resources that are relatively expensive to install and maintain. For example, traditional communication networks such as a local area network (LAN) typically have multiple parallel cable or communication bus runs to end use devices at each worksite. The parallel runs are a significant portion of the resources ~~[[an d]]~~ and costs associated with installation of a network, the more parallel runs the greater expenditure or resources. Hardwired devices also typically require a connection to a central power supply (such as utility power) and the power is usually delivered by separate cable runs. The portability of the end use devices in a hardwired system is usually hindered and limited by the "tethered" connection to a network.

Please replace the first paragraph on page 17 with the following amended paragraph:

It should be appreciated that the present embodiment is not meant to limit the possible number of connection ports included in an interface of a multi-configuration network connection point device. While a preferred embodiment of the present invention includes a plurality of connection ports on one interface and a single connection port on the other to take advantage of singular communication path (e.g., cable run) to an upstream device, the present invention is readily adaptable to [[a]] provide a variety of additional features (such as security, fault detection etc.) that are applicable to a plurality of connection ports on each interface.